What Is Claimed Is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 1 to about 480 in SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 2 to about 480 in SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 1 to about 348 in SEQ ID NO:6;

(d) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 2 to about 348 in SEQ ID NO:6;

(e) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. ~~209038;~~209041;

(f) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. ~~209041~~209038; and

(g) a nucleotide sequence complementary to any of the nucleotide sequences in (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f).

2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence identical to a nucleotide sequence in (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), or (g) of claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide which hybridizes does not hybridize under stringent hybridization conditions to a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence consisting of only A residues or of only T residues.

3. A method for making a recombinant vector comprising inserting an isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 into a vector.

4. A recombinant vector produced by the method of claim 3.

5. A method of making a recombinant host cell comprising introducing the recombinant vector of claim 4 into a host cell.

6. A recombinant host cell produced by the method of claim 5.

7. A recombinant method for producing an I-FLICE-1 or I-FLICE-2 polypeptide, comprising culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 6 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed and recovering said polypeptide.

8. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 1 to about 75 in SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 91 to about 171 in SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 172 to about 375 in SEQ ID NO:2;

(d) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 376 to about 480 in SEQ ID NO:2;

(e) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 1 to about 75 in SEQ ID NO:6;

(f) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 76 to about 252 in SEQ ID NO:6;

(f) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids from about 253 to about 348 in SEQ ID NO:6; and

(g) a nucleotide sequence complementary to any of the nucleotide sequences in (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f).

9. An isolated I-FLICE-1 or I-FLICE-2 polypeptide having an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) amino acids from about 1 to about 480 in SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) amino acids from about 2 to about 480 in SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) amino acids from about 1 to about 348 in SEQ ID NO:6;

(d) amino acids from about 2 to about 348 in SEQ ID NO:6;

(e) the amino acid sequence of the I-FLICE-1 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. ~~209038;~~209041;

(f) the amino acid sequence of the I-FLICE-2 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. ~~209041~~209038; and

(g) the amino acid sequence of an epitope-bearing portion of any one of the polypeptides of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f).

10. An isolated antibody that binds specifically to an I-FLICE-1 or I-FLICE-2 polypeptide of claim 9.

11. A method for treating diseases and disorders associated with apoptosis comprising administering to said individual a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide of claim 9.

12. A method useful during the diagnosis of diseases and disorders associated with aberrant cell survival in an individual comprising:

(a) measuring I-FLICE-1 or I-FLICE-2 gene expression level in cells or body fluid of said individual;

(b) comparing the I-FLICE-1 or I-FLICE-2 gene expression level of said individual with a standard I-FLICE-1 or I-FLICE-2 gene expression level, whereby an increase or decrease in the I-FLICE-1 or I-FLICE-2 gene expression level of said individual compared to said standard expression level is indicative of disease or disorder associated with aberrant cell survival.